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For

The Hon. Mr. Pashout
1. Northwick;
Cavendish Square -
with the author's best
compts -
A favor of Mr. Bay -

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A C C O U N T
OF THE
EXPEDITION OF ANCONA
UNDERTAKEN
BY A
RUSSIAN AND TURKISH ARMAMENT

1 7 9 9.

BY L^T. COLONEL ROOKE.
WHO SERVED AS VOLUNTEER.

L O N D O N
1800.



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The brilliant Events of the Campaign of 1799
in Italy immortalize the Hero of the North.

The disproportion betwixt the Operations on the Adriatick, and the Victories of Cassano, Placentia and Novi, ought to make the writer apologize for calling the attention of the Publick to secondary Objects, amidst a succession of such great events; but when the difference consists only in the numbers of the contending Parties, and the importance of the Conquests; and when the Valour and Enterprize is equal, the Reader will interest himself in the exertions of an handfull of men, labouring with equal zeal and equal success in the common cause; and the Author find his excuse in the Bravery and Conduct of those Troops whose progress he relates.

The situation of Italy at the beginning of 1799 was desperate; the Enemy was master of the whole of that fair Country, and it was deemed

to be irrecoverably lost. The fortunate change that suddenly took place; the brilliant success of the Allies in Lombardy; the seasonable arrival of Suwarow and his brave Russians, followed by a series of Victories which overthrew the hopes of the Enemy, and established the security of Italy; are events which engage the admiration of all, and challenge the gratitude of those who were thereby rescued from oppression.

But not entering into so spacious a field, I shall content myself with relating the operations of an Armament detached from Corfu by the Russian Admiral in Chief, for the purpose of liberating the March and City of Ancona, where 3000 French still remained and continued to exercise depredation and rapine.

The Force employed for this purpose consisted of 3 large Russian Frigates, carrying each fifty Guns, and 450 men; two Turks with forty Guns and 400 men each, and two Corvettes: and sailed from Corfu July 7.

As the Russian Admiral expected that it would be met by a Corps of Austrians to form the siege by Land, he sent this squadron to co-operate and carry on the Blockade by Sea; as it could hardly be presumed that five Frigates were

competent to reduce an extensive Province, or besiege and take an important Fortress.

The Squadron arrived off Fermo July 20, and communicating with the shore, it was learned that Ancona and the whole province was still in the hands of the Enemy, and that no Austrian Force was yet arrived, but that the French had many strong Posts in the Country, occupying Macerata, Loreto, Osimo, Jesi, Senigaglia, Mondolfo and Fano, in all of which places they had garrisons.

The Russian Commander, on hearing this, determined to lose no time, but to set on shore a Battalion formed of his Marines and Seamen and proceed to liberate that Province.

There was a Corps in the neighbourhood of Fermo of the Troops in Mass or Insurgents to the number of about 1000; being Peasants that had risen in defence of their Country, badly armed and without ammunition or any other requisite for carrying on warlike operations: they had an active and enterprizing Leader called Lahoz, who had deserted from the French, and was appointed to organize these rude materials. In the interior part of the Country towards the Mountains was another Corps of the same description under a Chief of the name of Vanni, who had headed a revolt against the French in the small

Town of Calderola, had gained some advantages over detached parties of the Enemy, and maintained himself in the neighbourhood of their advanced Posts.

The Russian Commander in the descent which he meditated, thought he could employ these irregular Bands to advantage, and that they might serve to make a diversion in his favor, by threatening the Posts on the Enemy's Left while he proceeded to attack the Right where they were the strongest. He therefore set on shore at Fermo some of his Officers with Ammunition and Field-Pieces, and gave directions to them to move forwards with these Corps, and menace the Enemy on that side, while he proceeded with his squadron to Pesaro forty miles to the westward of Ancona and seven miles distant from Fano, a City on the right of the Enemy's Line, fortify'd and garrisoned by 600 men.

The Russo-Turkish Squadron came to Anchor off Pesaro July 24, and on the following morning a Battalion of Seamen and Marines consisting of 600 men was disembarked: they were received with general acclamations, and all surveyed them with pleasure and surprize. The steady and firm appearance of the Russians, with the novel and martial array of the Turks, nations

brought from the distant and opposite Regions of Europe, to fight their Battles and deliver them from the yoke of slavery, could not fail to excite in the minds of all beholders singular and gratefull sensations.

The attack of Fano was immediately resolved on, and the Battalion marched in the Evening, accompanied by 200 Pesaro Volunteers and 40 Imperial Hussars; while the Squadron got under weigh at midnight and together with six Imperial Gun-Boats proceeded towards that City.

The Troops arrived there at day-break, and occupied the principal Avenues to the City; the attack on the Land-side being chiefly directed against the three Gates, which we began to batter, detachments being pushed forwards under cover of Houses and Trees to the edge of the ditch with the view of storming; but the Works were so well manned throughout and so heavy a fire of Musquetry kept up from the Ramparts, that such a measure was not thought advisable, as our force was not greater than that of the besieged, and receiving a check or suffering much loss in such an attempt, the more important object of Ancona must have been abandoned. An heavy fire was kept up by Sea and Land, and the Place being ill-provided with Ammunition and

Provisions could not make a long defence: the Garrison attempted to make its escape and evacuate the Place, but met with a warm reception and was driven back. The French General who commanded in Ancona, made likewise an attempt to bring off the Garrison, and advanced at the head of a considerable detachment to Mondolfo, a strong Post six miles from Fano, sending on 200 towards the Place to make a diversion while the Garrison sallied out, but this party was received so warmly by the Russians stationed before the Gate, and by the Austrian Hussars, that they were obliged to retreat with the loss of half their number. The Enemy having been frustrated in these attempts, and the Garrison being exhausted, it capitulated on 28th surrendering themselves Prisoners of War to the number of 600. The Enemy's force being by this means diminished, we looked forwards with confidence to our future offensive operations and the Siege of Ancona, which if the French Commander had kept all his force together for the defence of that City, we could hardly have undertaken with our small force. The Russian Battalion lost 2 Officers and 50 men in this attack.

The Russian Commander remained two days at Fano, where he was employed in organizing

the Government, landing stores, and preparing for the further progress of the Expedition; and by setting on shore all the Seamen that could be spared from the Ships, he augmented the Battalion, which now consisted of 700 Russians and 500 Turks.

With this force and about 500 of the Troops in mass, we marched forwards to attack Senigaglia, where the Enemy had a Garrison, but on our approach they withdrew it, and fell back behind the Jesina, on the banks of which River they had thrown up works, broken the Bridge that crosses it, and protected the Passage thereof by a *Tête du Pont*.

Having successfully arrived thus far, and driven back the Enemy from many of their Posts in the Country, we opened a communication with the National Corps of Lahoz and Vanni which had marched forwards as the French retreated; the former had taken post at Loreto, the latter in the neighbourhood of Jesi, and regulating themselves by the motions of the Russian Corps, waited for orders to advance in concert under the Walls of Ancona. As the two important Posts of Fiumesino and the Montagnuolo remained to be forced before we could accomplish that purpose; the Russian Commander

sent orders for these Corps to move forwards as he cleared the Country, and as soon as he had taken these Posts and driven the French into the Town, to join him and form the Blockade of the City.

Accordingly he made his disposition for attacking the *Tête du Pont* of Fiumesino commanding the passage of the River Jesina, and gave his orders to the Battalion to march and force that pass, while a Squadron of Austrian Cavalry, which joined us at Senigaglia, covered the right Flank of the Column and took post at Monte Marciano. The Battalion made the attack at day break August 5. and soon carried the Post, pursuing the Enemy, till their Gun-Boats commanding the Road, together with a Battery thrown across it, covered their Retreat: and as they had a formidable Line of Entrenchments about two miles from the City, which covered it on this side, it was thought advisable to halt at Fiumesino and hasten the march of Vanni's Corps that our Numbers might have a greater effect in the attack of those Lines. During our stay at Fiumesino the different Cities and Towns which had been liberated sent deputations to the Russian Commander and expressed the highest sense of gratitude for their deliverance, after

having suffered for two years all the evils of democratik licentiousness. The impressions of Terror were still visible on their minds, which we endeavoured to remove, by inspiring them with ideas of protection and confidence, and making them feel the difference betwixt their deliverers and their oppressors.

Altho' in most of the Towns of this Province there had been some Partizans of the late Government, who under the title of Jacobins were odious to their fellow Citizens, yet their number was inconsiderable; it was thought proper however for the quiet of the Country, to remove them, and at the desire of the different Communities, who had arrested several of that description, the Russian Commander sent them on Board his Ships, a measure as necessary for the preservation of the persons themselves, as for the purpose of maintaining Order and Tranquillity in the Country. But he shewed so much Judgment and Lenity, that none but those who had been very active and obnoxious in the past Government were included in that number.

Being joined by the National Corps of Vanni consisting of about 700 armed Peasants, we marched forwards to attack the Lines of the Montagnuolo, which were thrown up on heights

in front of Ancona on this side; the principal points of which, were a Battery on the right across the high Road, a strong redoubt on the summit of an Hill in the Centre, and a Tower on the left situated likewise on an eminence. The Column marched from Fiumesino at midnight on 7th. and took its direction inland to gain the left of the Enemy's position on which the principal attack was intended to be made; it proceeded along a ridge of Hills in front of the heights on which the Enemy was intrenched, and being arrived opposite to the principal Redoubt of the Montagnuolo, the National Corps was ordered to make a movement towards the front of their works, and by a false attack on the Redoubt engage their attention while the Russo-Turkish Battalion gained the Post on the Left, the Cavalry endeavouring to get round the right and cut them off in their retreat to the City. This disposition being made, the Russo - Turkish Battalion after a great circuit in a strong and difficult Country, arrived on the flank of the Enemy's Post at the Torraccio, who sallied out to attack our Column on each flank; the Russian Commander forming a Line with the Turks at each extremity, gave orders to advance in open order and scour the Country, a manoeuvre which

they performed with so much promptitude and ardor, that the Enemy fell back with precipitation, was immediately dislodged from the Tower, and flying to the grand Redoubt, carried dismay and consternation with them, astonished by the fury of the Turks who rushed on with Shouts and Yells to storm the Redoubt from whence the Enemy made an hasty retreat, and was pursued under the Guns of Ancona: the Cavalry not having been able to pass the Battery on the right and gain their rear.

By this means we compleatly cleared the Country, and drove the Enemy into the City and under the Walls of Ancona, and thereby opened a passage for the National Corps of Lahoz to unite with us, which accordingly took post on the right of the Line. The remaining Cities and Towns of the March of Ancona now sent deputations to the Russian Commander to express their Joy and Gratitude on being delivered from the Enemy, and their satisfaction on coming under his Protection. The Russian - Turkish and Imperial Colours were unitedly hoisted in the different places, nor did the Russian Commander attempt to arrogate to his Sovereign any exclusive authority in that province, altho' his exertions had principally contributed to the re-

covery of it: supplying the National Troops with Arms, Ammunition and Officers, he had enabled them to advance; and having driven the Enemy from all its strong Posts in the Country, he had opened a passage for the Corps of Vanni and Lahoz, and rescued a considerable province which otherwise must have groaned for some time longer under French oppression.

Ancona the Capital of the Province or March of that Name, stands on the Coast of the Adriatic and from its situation and Port enjoys great commercial advantages, being the only one except Brindisi in the whole Extent of the Coast of Italy from thence to Trieste, a tract of 300 Miles. On this account it has ever been regarded as an object of consequence and cherished by different sovereigns with peculiar care. The Emperor Trajan first discovered its importance and improved or rather formed the Port, by a Mole to secure it against the violence of the Winds on the Northeast side, which act of publick benefit to the Town is still attested by a magnificent Triumphal Arch erected on the Mole to that Emperor, in commemoration thereof, and which braving the injuries of time, remains to attract the notice and admiration of the learned and curious Traveller. In later days and under the

Pontifical Government, an additional Mole or Arm, as it is called, built by Urban. 8, has added to the size and security of the Port. A magnificent Lazaret strengthened by Bastions, provides against the Evils to be dreaded from its Commerce with the Levant and protects the Port. Merchant-ships find there a safe Asylum and secure Anchorage; but larger Vessels and Men of War, particularly if of the Line, can only lay on the outside or entrance of the Port, where their situation is open and exposed.— The Town stands on the slope of an Hill, the two highest points of which are defended by two Fortresses, one called the Old Fortress or that of the Capucins, the other the Cittadella, connected by Walls and Bastions and forming part of its defences on the Landside. The Height of San Ciriaco rising from the Mole commands the Sea on each side thereof and is mounted with Batteries. An Eminence without the Walls to the Eastward, which commands the two Fortresses and the City, the importance of which for the defence of the place could not escape the vigilance of the French, altho' it had hitherto remained unnoticed and unfortified by former Engineers, has formed one of the strongest and most usefull works in the present siege; it is known by the name of

Monte Gardetto. No pains or labour, that ingenuity could devise, was spared to strengthen it, and make it capable of either resisting or annoying the Besiegers; its great natural declivity was aided by an entrenched Redoubt on the summit, with deep and double fosses, and a stockade round the inner Rampart, with a Cavalier in the Centre, and a subterranean passage of communication leading to the Fortrefs of the Capucins. Its Guns sweep the whole of the slope, and command all the East-side of the City, flanking at the same time the Citadel. A Work thrown up with Guns mounted, halfway up the Road leading to it, renders it still more inaccessible to Assailants. Ancona therefore on the Land-side is covered by the four important points of Monte Gardetto, the Fortrefs of the Capucins, the Cittadella and the Lazaret. The latter situated on an Island, at the distance of Pistol-Shot from the Porta Nuova, the principal entrance to the City, mounted with Bastions both to the Land and Sea, effectually commands the narrow approach by Land betwixt it and the Cittadella, and the approach by Sea likewise. The defences of the Port are formed by the Lazaret on one side, a chain of Gun-Boats and three Lines of Battle Ships used as floating Batteries, all moored across

the entrance of the Harbour, and a formidable Battery *à fleur d'Eau* at the Lanthorn Point. A Place defended by so many Works mounted with three hundred mouths of fire, and garrisoned by 2500 men, seemed to be an object of too great magnitude for a Battalion of One Thousand regular Troops, and a parcel of half-armed Peasants. But the Russian Commander, who had so bravely dislodged the Enemy from all its Posts in the Country, in which Affairs many had been killed and taken, and the rest driven under or within the Walls of Ancona, knew the importance of keeping his Station before the Place and blocking up the Enemy. He therefore determined to form a Line of Circumvallation round the Place by Land and keep it closely blockaded by Sea with his Squadron.

Accordingly he assigned to the respective Corps their different Posts.

That of Lahoz, consisting of two thousand Insurgents or Troops in Mals, took up its ground on the Right of the Line: that of Vanni, formed of One Thousand of the same kind of Troops, occupied the Centre, and the Russo-Turkish Battalion, with three hundred Pesaro Insurgents, was posted on the Left; the Situation most exposed to sallies, having the three Gates, Porta

Nuova, Capo di Monte and the Sally-Port of the Citadel immediately opposite.

The Corps of Lahoz therefore advanced and took up its station at the *Pié della Croce*, on the height of which he established his entrenched Camp: That of Vanni occupied the heights of *Le Grazie*, and the Russo-Turkish Battalion was posted along the Bank of *La Schrima*; about the middle of August they began to break ground and form Batteries in front of the respective Posts.

If in the prosecution of our works we were aided by the zeal and alacrity of the Country, which daily furnished us a thousand Labourers, yet we met with great difficulty in transporting and landing our Artillery.

The whole extent of coast in the neighbourhood of Ancona being open and exposed, would not allow of the erection of Wharfs or Stages for landing Cannons: they were brought from the Ships, which lay at a considerable distance from the shore, owing to the shallowness of the Water; and landed on the open Beach by mere bodily labor, and from thence conveyed to the Batteries in Slings; Ship-Carriages not being calculated for Land-Travelling.

But notwithstanding these obstacles, the exertions were so great, that in less than ten days we had twenty large Guns, eighteens and twenty-fours, mounted and firing against the City and Forts: the more extraordinary, as the Wind from the Sea rendered the shore often unfit for landing Stores, by the Surf it occasioned; or exposed them to accidents in the attempt, which happened more than once, our Boats being stove and the Ammunition lost.

About the beginning of September we had compleated our first Parallel, which on the Russian side was within half-Gun-Shot of the Enemy's Works, but more distant on the Right and Centre of our Line; as the Troops in Mass could not risque a Position so near the Enemy; the continual Sallies made against them kept them at a distance and obliged them to protect their Batteries by strong entrenched Redoubts, to which they betook themselves on those occasions.

However we had formed a respectable Line of Circumvallation defended by thirty Pieces of heavy ordinance, and several smaller ones and field-pieces which were usefull against sallies.

We by this means kept up a close and effectual Blockade of the City, but having only a Battalion of 1000 regular Troops, we were not strong enough to advance our Works or form a second Parallel, much less to establish ourselves so near the Place as to batter in breach. A further re-inforcement therefore was applied for to the Russian Admiral commanding in Chief; but he having left Corfu in the Month of August, and sailed for Sicily and Naples, this application was rather long in reaching him, and the Battalion which he destined for our assistance did not march from Naples before the end of September.

In the mean time we did our utmost to annoy the Enemy, and the warm and continued fire from the Russian Batteries had much damaged the Citadel and dismounted several Guns.

We had not the Prospect of a speedy surrender from Famine, as the Garrison was well supplied with Provisions; the Population amounting to 20,000 was somewhat distressed; but Necessaries were not wanting even to the Poorest, and the Rich altho' abridged of their Luxuries suffered more from the dread of future evils, than from present wants; a Fowl sold or a Zecchin (half a Guinea) and an Egg for a

Paul (six pence), Rice, Stock Fish and Oil were in abundance; and altho' deserters and others who came out of the Place, represented the Garrison as starving, to flatter us with the hopes of a speedy surrender, yet in general we observed that their looks belied their words.

The Siege training in length, an Assault was frequently talked of, and about the beginning of September the Russian Commander proposed to execute an attack upon the Place in the following manner. As the Russian Frigates of fifty Guns are little inferior in size to Ships of the Line, and some, not at all in weight of metal, of which description was one in our Squadron called the Kasanski, which carried thirty two pounders on its main deck, and no Guns having been taken out of it for the service on shore, was well calculated to lay along side the Mole Battery, the station assigned to it: The other two Russian Frigates having but half their Guns on board, one compleated from the other, in conjunction with the Turkish Frigates was to run into the Port and attack the two Line of Battle-Ships, which had not men enough to work more than half their Guns. Our twelve Gun Boats were to pass through the narrow channel leading to the Lazaret, and the

Crews thereof were immediately to storm it, which was very practicable, there being a landing-place in the *retrant* angle of the Bastion, the Wall thereof low, and defended only by 200 men: the Battalion on shore attacking the Porta Nuova, while the irregular Troops menaced the City on the opposite side. But the Elements proved unpropitious and defeated our projects. An heavy Gale of Wind from N. E. put our Squadron into no small danger, and damaged some of the Ships; the Kasanski and the largest of the Turkish Frigates having suffered in the Gale, were obliged to quit their stations and go into Port.

We had therefore to commence new plans and take fresh measures for reducing the Place; the first was to carry our works forwarder, and form a second parallel. The Russians succeeded and pushed on a Battery within Musket Shot of the Enemy's Posts; and it being necessary to strengthen the Corps of Lahoz who was on the right, to enable him to advance his works to Monte Pulito, a Corps of 200 Turks and Russians was detached to aid him in that attempt. Thus re-inforced he ventured to form a covered way towards that height and attempted to establish himself thereon, but no sooner did the

Enemy discover his intentions than they made a sally with 1000 men and attacked him with great fury; the Troops in Mass made a little stand supported by the Turks and Russians, who kept the Centre of the Enemy's Line in check, but at last were driven within their Lines and left the latter to bear the Brunt of the Action.

In the Fight of that day, which was a confused and disorderly affair, owing to the nature of the ground, intersected by Trees, Ravins and Hedges, and to the irregular mode of fighting of the Turks, who thereby broke the line of the Enemy, and separating them into small bodies engaged them platoon against platoon and in some parts man to man, and had much the advantage in that mode, as superior in strength and activity. Amidst the proofs of valour given by them on this occasion, that of their Commander Ibrahim deserves to be particularly mentioned; he with five of his Turks beat off near twenty of the Enemy, who attempted to surround and take them; and having at another time singly engaged and killed a French Officer, was employed in severing his head from his body, to bear off in triumph, according to their custom, when he was suddenly attacked by five; he immediately discharged his Pistols and laid

two of them dead at his feet, when he received, almost in the same moment, a shot through his right Leg, and a stab through his arm with a Bayonet; falling to the ground he still defended himself, and his left Leg served conjointly with his sabre to parry the blows of his Antagonists, but he was on the point of falling a victim, when a party of Turks came to his rescue and bore him off. The vigorous opposition made by the Turks and Russians gave the Troops in Mass time to save themselves in their Redoubt, and the Enemy after a warm attack of several hours, retreated under the Guns of Monte Gardetto.

The exposed and open Road in which our squadron lay, made us rather anxious for its security in the Season of the Equinox which was now approaching, and formed a subject of confidence and hope for the Garrison, assured as well as the Inhabitants by the French General, that the Troops must shortly embark and the ships leave their station before that time: but the Russian Commander had prepared for that event by equipping a Flotilla of Gun-Boats and arming them with two twenty four pounders, each; which, if his Squadron was obliged to leave its station, would be at hand to keep up the Blockade; having the Port of Senigaglia to the West-

ward, and that of *La Trave* to the Eastward, from whence they might soon return to their station when the weather permitted. However the Ships did not suffer in the least from the Equinoctial Gales, for the Wind being from the shore, the sea was smooth; but we anxiously expected the Russian Battalion of re-inforcement, before the advanced season might oblige the Squadron to retire, since an Attack of the place being determined on as soon as the former arrived, the co-operation of the latter at the same time would be extremely necessary. But altho' we were disappointed of the succours we expected from that quarter, yet we received them unexpectedly from another.

About the latter end of September an Austrian Major General came to Senigaglia and signified to us his orders to take on him the command of 5000 men, which were to meet him there, and co-operate in the reduction of Ancona. The Troops which were ordered for that service, being in Dalmatia, owing to contrary winds did not arrive till the beginning of October.

We concluded that such a force added to ours must soon bring the Garrison to terms of Capitulation; but however, the summons sent

in by that General was answered, by an invitation to fight, and a declaration that the French General and the Garrison were determined to defend themselves even to *extinction*; and the French Officer who returned with a Flag of Truce, carrying this Answer, coming out at midnight to the Batteries of Lahoz, inspired a false confidence in the Guards and Troops, by crying out "Peace; " Capitulation; and had no sooner returned, than a French Column rushed forwards, surprized the piquets and took the advanced Battery, the Guns of which they spiked, and were advancing to storm the Grand Redoubt, when they were met by Lahoz, who was leading on his people, but who in so doing, received a mortal wound and fell: some of the Cisalpine soldiers who knew him were carrying him off as a Prize, when his Body was rescued by his own Troops, who from affection to their Chief, fought gallantly to save him and took prisoners those that were bearing him away. He was a man who had military Skill and Experience and had gained the Love and Confidence of the Troops that he commanded, but having often changed parties was become suspicious to all; he first was an Officer in the Imperial Army, but deserting to the French, became the favo-

rite of Bonaparte whom he served as Aide du Camp during the whole of his grand Campaigns in Italy and Germany, in the years 1796 and 1797. On forming the Cisalpine Army, he was made General of Brigade, and on pretence of being ill-treated, deserted from that service and became Chief of the Troops in Mass of the March of Fermo; as we supposed that the motives for his changing sides proceeded from Policy, on foreseeing the decline of the French cause in Italy, we only trusted him on the principle of its being his interest to be faithfull.
— The Enemy being repulsed in its attack on the Redoubt, retreated back to the City.

Soon after this Affair arrived an Austrian Lt. General with a further re-inforcement by which that Corps was encreased to 8000, and Octr. 8. took up its ground on the Right of the Line on the heights occupied by the Corps of Lahoz. With so large a Body of regular Troops, the Insurgents now became unnecessary, and by order of the Austrian General were reformed and sent home.

The misfortunes of the times had called forth these irregular bands, who being under no discipline had occasioned great disorders in the Country: without sufficient Energy to extirpate,

they only irritated the Enemy, and kept the whole of that Province in a continual scene of Warfare, living as Free-Booters they added to those evils which the French had brought on it; if they succeeded in driving a small party of the Enemy from a City or Village, they sacked it and the former when they recovered it, did the same.

In this wretched situation did we find the Country on our arrival, and the Russian Commander immediately delivered it from both its Enemies, driving the former into Ancona, and assembling the latter under the Walls, where they were subjected to some little system of order and discipline. But this unhappy Country was doomed to undergo a fresh irruption from these Locusts; for the Austrian General imprudently dismissing them with their Arms, and without any gratification or even Bread for their march, they were necessarily compelled to put the Country under contributions, and their footsteps were to be traced by sackage and plunder.

On the arrival of such a body of Austrians, we expected soon to be masters of the Place. The Russian made a proposal for a general attack, offering to enter the Port with his Ships and

Gun-Boats and assault the Lazaret and Lanthorn Battery, at the same time his Battalion storming the Works near the Porta Nuova, if the Austrian Commander would co-operate, directing his force against the Citadel and Monte Gardetto; nor could the place have resisted against several Attacks made on different points by so large a force, the Works throughout being insignificant, consisting in simple Walls without ditches. The Austrian General ought to have been prompt and peremptory in his operations, and not have lost time before Ancona, when his Corps would have been so seasonable a relief to Gen. Klenau, who had been beaten back from before Genoa as far as Sarzana, and the Enemy had advanced to Pontremoli and threatened Tuscany; if slow measures were to be adopted this Corps was of no use before Ancona, as we should have taken it as soon with the Russian Battalion that was coming to our assistance, but whose march was suspended at Rome, on hearing of the arrival of the Austrians. But slow measures seemed best to suit the Genius of the Austrian General, who rejecting the spirited proposition of the Russian Commander proceeded on the regular plan of advancing his Parallel and forming Batteries: and in the space of a Month

had compleated one of six Guns and another of four on Monte Pulito. He then gave orders to commence a general fire from the Batteries, and at the same time for the Troops to advance and drive the Enemy within the Walls, for as yet they held some Posts between our Lines and the Place, the two principal ones being, a large House called *degli Archi*, near the Lazaret and Porta Nuova; the other, an House near the Angle of the Horn-Work of the Citadel — the attack began an hour before day-break Nov. 2. The Turks and Russians drove the Enemy from their Post at the Archi, and the Austrians took the other; the whole Line then advanced to the foot of the Wall of the Citadel and the different Gates of the City; but having neither ladders nor orders to storm, remained there only as objects for a shower of Grape and Round Shot, which the Enemy saluted them with as soon as it was light, and five hundred issuing from the Sally-Port, drove the Austrians back, and retook from them their Post; but the Turks and Russians who had advanced close to the Gate of Capo di Monte, seeing the Austrians fall back threw themselves into some houses close to that Gate and kept that position during the day, in spite of the repeated attacks of the Enemy, and in the

Evening fell back to the Post of the *Archi*, which they had taken in the morning, and maintained themselves there during the remainder of the siege.

The Austrians without having gained an Inch of Ground lost in this affair 300 men killed and wounded, the Russians and Turks 40 and the Enemy near 200.

As the Austrian General did not succeed in this attempt, instead of continuing offensive operations he had recourse to negotiation and renewed his summons to the place: after four repeated invitations to the French General offering him the most advantageous terms and allowing him in his Capitulation to calumniate the Russian Commander, he and the French General signed it to the total exclusion of the former, for the frivolous reasons alledged in the Preliminary Article.

How that General will answer to his own Court or that of Russia for the insult thus ungenerously offered to the Arms of so great and so powerfull an Ally, I know not: but no one who surveys his Conduct or sees his Capitulation can consider it in any other light than that of the highest Injustice, Illiberality and Disloyalty.

To explain the subject of the Preliminary Article alluded to, accusing the Russian Commander of having violated the Capitulation of Fano, it may be necessary to mention, that a party of Turks, after the surrender of that place, broke into the City, and plundered some Houses, notwithstanding the strict orders of the Russian Commander to the contrary, who soon put a stop to it, and gave to the Place and to the inhabitants all the protection in his power. Was it not therefore extremely impolitick on the part of the Austrian General to suffer such reflections to be thrown out on the Commander of an Ally on so frivolous a pretence? And is it not evident to every one that the aim of the French General was to sow discord and jealousy betwixt the two Nations, and that the Austrian General became the weak or malicious Dupe of that shallow Artifice?

The Russian Commander had a most clear and undoubted right, to partake in the name of his Sovereign, both in making and signing the Capitulation of Ancona. By his exertions and valour he had freed that whole Province from the Enemy; had by his Squadron protected the Commerce of the Adriatick, to the great advantage and security of his Imperial

Majesty's Subjects; he had been three Months before the Place, and had furnished the Batteries with Guns landed from his Ships; of which the Austrian General availed himself in his operations against the Place; and tho' arriving in the Camp with the Austrian Troops, he had the right to command on Shore, which was never called in question; yet the Russian Commodore was independant in his Command by Sea, and according to all the Laws of Nations and Allies acting in concert, ought to have taken part in every conference, communication and Capitulation that was going on.

Nothing can excuse such a conduct, particularly when the Austrian General was at the head of 9000 men, before an insignificant Place almost reduced to extremity, and who even in the greatest emergency ought never to have signed such Conditions.

In fine, all who foresee the effect, must feel themselves indignant on the occasion; and when they acknowledge the flagrant Injury offered to the Arms of a powerfull Ally and at the same time to the common cause, they must allow that the Russian Commander has all the Honor of the taking of Ancona: the Austrian Commander all the Odium of a disloyal Capitulation.

CAPITULATION

Settled for the surrender of Ancona betwixt the General of Brigade Monnier, commanding the Division of Ancona, and Lt. General Frelich in his Imperial Majesty's service.

Preliminary Article.

The General commanding the Division of Ancona, and the Troops under his Orders, considering, that the Capitulation of Fano, signed eighth Thermidor, betwixt the French Republican Troops, and the Commander of the Russian and Turkish Troops, has been violated in its execution by the said Russian Commander: Considering, that Death would be preferable to the dishonour of treating with Authorities that do not acknowledge the Rights of Nations: Considering, the situation in which the Division of Ancona actually finds itself; and considering the fourth and last summons intimated by Lt. General Frelich in the Service of his Imperial Majesty,

Declare

That they will not enter into any Negotiation but with the Troops and the said Lt. General of his Imperial Majesty.

Answer.

Agreed to.

(Then follow twenty Articles of Capitulation; the principal of which are to stipulate, that the French Garrison shall march out of the Place with all the honors of War, be furnished with Waggons to carry away their Baggage and Effects, be conducted to the nearest Post of the French Army in Italy, ~~and not to be considered as Prisoners of War, but to be free to return~~ the whole Expences of their March and maintenance on the road to be defrayed by his Imperial Majesty)

Signed

Ancona 23. Brumaire 8th.
Year of the French Republic,
One and Indivisible.

Piè della Croce 15. Nov.
1799.

Monnier
General of Brigade.

Frelich
Lt. General.
